Scheme, one centre each in the districts of Mandi and Bilaspur has been sanctioned.

The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) programme is also in operation in Himachal Pradesh for the promotion of micro-enterprises.

Introduction of Computer Courses by Small Scale Service Institutes

1662. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Small Scale Service Institutes throughout the country have stopped imparting training on Industries/entrepreneurs developmental programmes and started Computer Courses intended to earn profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) names of such SSIs in Orissa which are imparting Computer Courses that propose to start the said courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) continue to impart training to entrepreneurs through a series of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Management Development Programmes and Skill Development Programmes on a regular basis. In addition to the above mentioned training Programmes, some of the SISIs viz. New Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore have been conducting Computer Courses to help entrepreneurs and their employees to keep pace with the emerging trends in Information Technology for adopting better Management and Marketing practices.

(c) None of the SSIs in the State of Orissa isconducting Computer Courses.

Closure of small scale units

1663. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that larger number of small scale units are closing down;

(b) if so, what is their number in the last five years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that unemployment is avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The information on the number of closed small scale units is not maintained as it is not compulsory for small scale units to register themselves with the State Governments. The Reserve Bank of India, however, compiles data on sick small scale industries financed by banks. As per the Reserve Bank of India, the sickness in small scale industries for the last five years is as follows:

As at the end of	Total number of sick SSI units
March, 1995	2,68,815
March, 1996	2,62,376
March, 1997	2,35,032
March, 1998	2,21,536
March, 1999	3,06,221

(c) The Government if fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units which, *inter-alia,* includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs); special rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions; and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to the eligible units to ensure that unemployment is avoided.

Assistance for technological upgradation of tanneries

1664. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist small scale tenneries for technological upgradation for productivity improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ceiling of grant proposed to be given and procedure devised for monitoring the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.